

**REPORT TO THE BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF  
INTERNATIONAL LAW  
INTEREST GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW  
2016–2017**

**1. ACTIVITIES**

**A) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNESCO AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW:  
"UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE BETWEEN EDUCATION AND ECONOMY - A LEGAL  
ANALYSIS", RAVENNA, 27-28 OCTOBER 2016**

On 26-27 October 2016, the International Economic Law Interest Group (IEL IG) of the ESIL held an International Conference in the Bologna Campus of Ravenna on "UNESCO World Heritage between Education and Economy - A Legal Analysis", also sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, the City of Ravenna, and the Italian Branch of the International Law Association. The Scientific Committee of the Ravenna Conference is editing a book collecting the papers presented in Ravenna.

Please find attached as Annex 1) the Programme of the Ravenna UNESCO International Conference.

**B) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN THE  
CONCLUSION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC  
LAW ISSUES"**

On 9 December 2016, the ESIL IG on IEL held an International Conference "The Role of the European Parliament in the Conclusion and Implementation of Agreements on International Economic Law issues". The Conference was held in cooperation with and at the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels. The Conference was divided in four sessions dealing with the role of the European Parliament in economic and trade policy after the Treaty of Lisbon, transparency implications, preferential trade agreements as mixed agreements, the role of the EU Member States' national parliaments and (possibly) parliaments of territorial units, and the role of national parliaments in the conclusion of international economic agreements in the third countries that are major trading partners of the EU. The keynote speakers were legal adviser to the European Political Strategy Center (EPSC) advising the President of the European Commission and the EU's chief TTIP negotiator. Selected papers will be published in a special issue of the Journal of World Investment and Trade. The programme of the conference is attached as Annex 2).

**C) LONDON CONFERENCE ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT IN FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS, 26-27  
MAY 2017, SOMERSET HOUSE (SW1.17/1.18), KING'S COLLEGE LONDON**

On May 26-27 2017 the IEL IG, together with the IG on International Courts and Tribunals as well as the King's Forum on International Dispute Resolution hosted a conference on Dispute Settlement in Free Trade Agreements. The conference broke up the relevant issues of dispute settlement into topics for expert roundtables that were supplemented with academic talks on cutting-edge issues surrounding dispute resolution. The keynote speaker was Japan's chief negotiator for the TPP and current ambassador to the UK. The programme of the conference is attached as Annex 3).

#### **D) ESIL CONFERENCE IN NAPLES, WORKSHOP OF THE ESIL INTEREST GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, 6 SEPTEMBER 2016**

After launching a call for papers several months in advance, the ESIL IEL IG selected 14 papers to be presented on the topic "GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS, GLOBAL COMMONS, FUNDAMENTAL VALUES: THE RESPONSES OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW." In fact, IEL is more and more a key factor for economic governance, security and sustainability issues. Therefore, the call invited scholars to present proposals on a) The Value Chains and Fair Trade – Properly Accommodated in Contemporary International Economic Law?, b) International Economic Law and Commodities: the State-of-the-Art and the Need for Innovative Interpretative Approaches and Treaty-Making, c) Investment Law and the Protection of Human Rights, Cultural Heritage – Collision and Co-existence, d) Investment Law and Access to Water. The goal of the Naples Workshop is to encourage research on the thorniest and newest issues of International Economic Law, gathering together young and experienced scholars to promote discussions and develop also proposals in the drafting of the new IEL legal tools, reports, awards and rulings. The full programme of the Naples Workshop is attached as Annex 4.

#### **E) INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW COLLOQUIUM: INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT LAW & THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT, ATHENS, 5-6 OCTOBER 2017**

With the support of the ESIL Interest Group on International Economic Law, the Athens Public International Law Center (AthensPIL) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Faculty of Law, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the Research Centre on Procurement law and International Investments (CREDIMI) of the University of Burgundy, and the Faculty of Law of the University of Zaragoza organise, in the context of the *Investment Law Initiative*, a Colloquium on "International Investment Law & the Law of Armed Conflict". The Colloquium will take place on 5-6 October 2017 in Athens, Greece.

## **2. GOVERNANCE**

The International Economic Law Interest Group is governed by five Co-Chairs, Elisa Baroncini (U. Bologna), Holger Hestermeyer (King's College), Peter-Tobias Stoll (U. Göttingen), Catharine Titi (French National Centre for Scientific Research), Marina Trunk-Fedorova (U. Kiel). They run the Interest Group's day-to-day business, administer its web page and organise its regular events. The 5 Co-Chairs managed and manage to meet also during Conferences and Seminars of common interest. The procedure for the election of three new chairs has been held in December 2016. Holger Hestermeyer, Catharine Titi, Marina Trunk-Fedorova have been elected, while, in September 2016, the mandate of Elisa Baroncini and Peter-Tobias Stoll has been prorogated of two years by the ESIL Board in order to guarantee continuity in the ESIL IEL IG.

## **3. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

The ESIL IEL IG is planning the publication of the Naples Workshops papers in the series of the ESIL Working papers; it is also working on the editing of the Transparency and UNESCO Books from the previous Ravenna International Conferences. Some of the papers of the Brussels Conference are going to be published by Brill in the review *European Investment Law and Arbitration Review*.